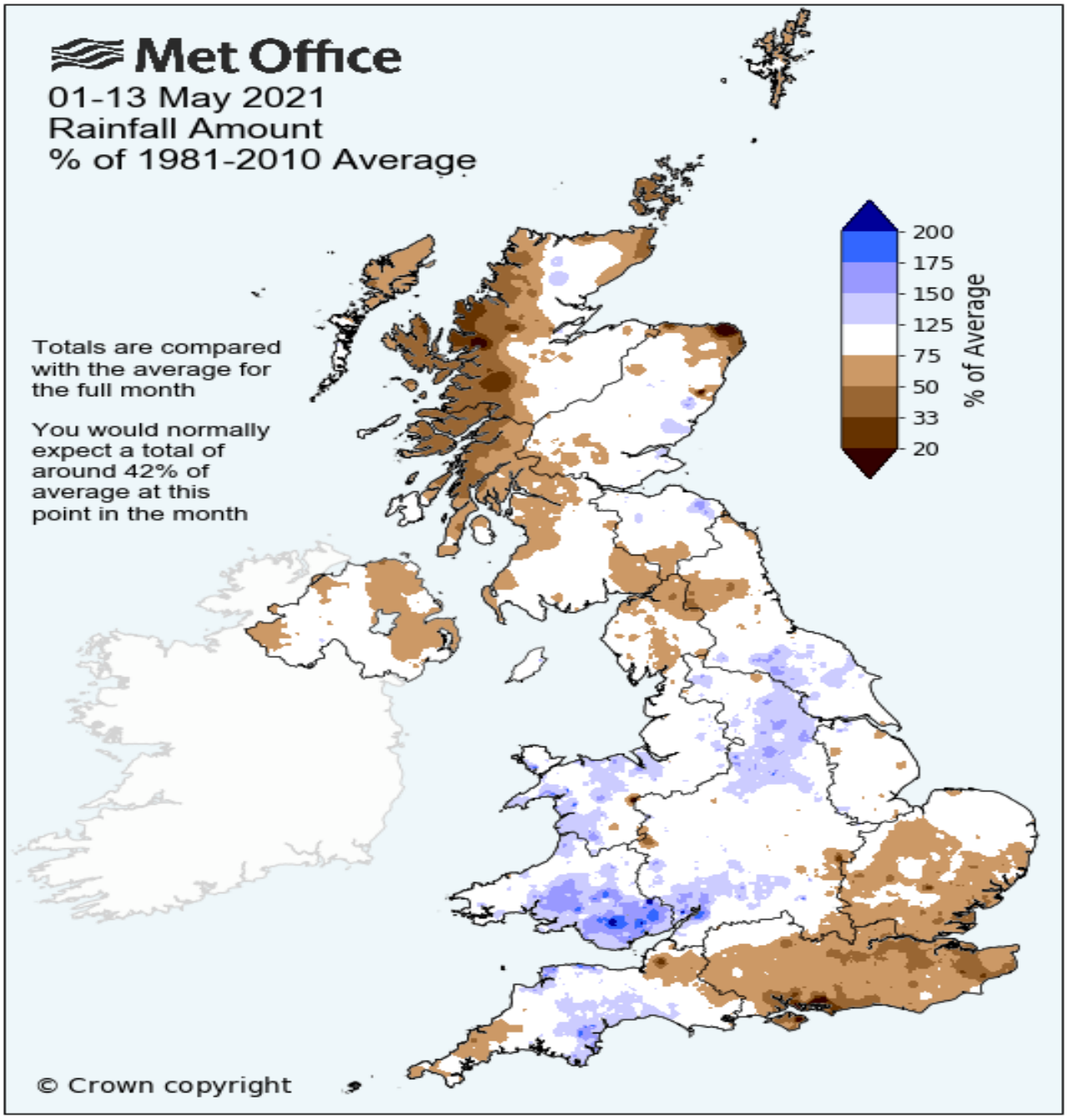
Rainy and cool May so far

Description

A sodden start to May has already sent large parts of the UK to within touching distance of their average rainfall for the month, with Wales having seen at least 25% more rain than would be expected over the course of the whole month.

The UK has been gripped by the influence of persistent low pressure systems since the start of the month, with Wales and northern parts of England bearing the brunt of persistent, heavy rainfall and sometimes stormy conditions.

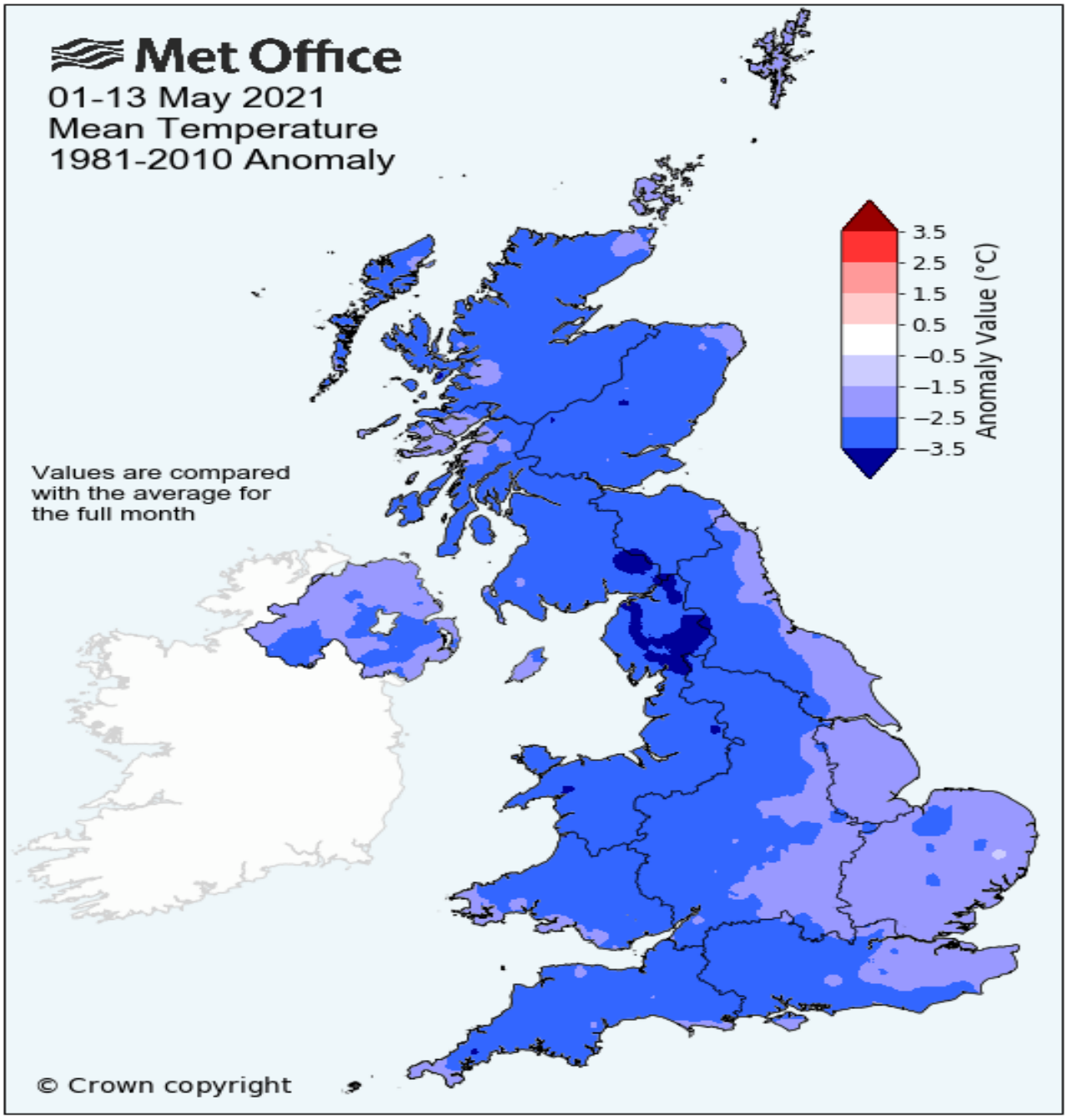
According to provisional figures from the National Climate Information Centre, Wales has already had 129% (110.6mm) of its average rainfall for the whole of the month, while the UK as a whole has had 88% (61.1mm). Despite Wales and northern England seeing the most persistent rain, all countries in the UK are currently tracking well ahead of the amount of rainfall that would be expected by this point of the month, with Scotland already having 72% (60.9mm) of its May average total, Northern Ireland 77% (55.8mm) and England 92% (53.9mm).



Map showing rainfall amount in the UK from 1 May to 13 May

The totals so far remain well below what would be record levels of rainfall for the month, with the record for Wales in May sitting at 184.2mm in May 1967. The UK's record rainfall for May was also in 1967, with an average of 131.7mm falling.

In addition, despite the average temperatures in the UK generally increasing due to climate change, May so far has been cool across the board, with maximum temperatures, minimum temperatures and mean temperatures all currently at least 2°C lower than their long-term May average for every country in the UK.



Map showing mean temperatures in the UK from 1 May to 13 May

Dr Mark McCarthy, Scientific Manager of the National Climate Information Centre, said: “Although it’s not unusual to see some downpours and cooler temperatures in May, the month so far has been particularly unsettled across the UK as the influence of low pressure systems has taken hold.

“May picked up where April ended with cooler temperatures and unsettled weather for many, especially in northern England and Wales. It’s far too early in the month to talk about any potential records being set, but with rain in the current forecast, it seems likely that we’ll see above average rainfall across large parts of the country by the end of the month.”

View the latest forecast in your area on the Met Office website.

Provisional 1 May – 13 May 2021	Mean temp (°C)		Sunshine (hours)		Rainfall (mm)	
	Actual	Diff from avg (°C)	Actual	% of avg	Actual	% of avg
UK	7.6	-2.7	65.6	35	61.1	88
England	8.6	-2.7	71.1	37	53.9	92
Wales	7.7	-2.9	70.2	37	110.6	129
Scotland	6.0	-2.9	52.0	29	60.9	72
N Ireland	7.8	-2.4	82.4	45	55.8	77

Date Created
May 2021

Met Office climate projections assess impact on global sports

Description

Climate change is affecting every dimension of society. From the food production of the food we eat and the water we drink, and from how we earn our livelihoods to how we spend our leisure time.

And climate projections – our best window on the future world – suggest that these impacts will continue to increase.

For decades Met Office climate projections have been providing valuable information on likely changes to our climate and the impacts those changes will have on society. The projections which look at the UK and the rest of the world are known as UKCP.

The future of skiing at Val d'Isère will rely on sufficient snowfall during the season.

Recently we partnered with BBC Sport to run a series of projections around a series of six major global sporting events to see how those sports could be impacted by climate change in 30 years' time. Many of these sporting fixtures have already been impacted by climate change and our projections suggest that the impacts will become greater as the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases continues to rise.

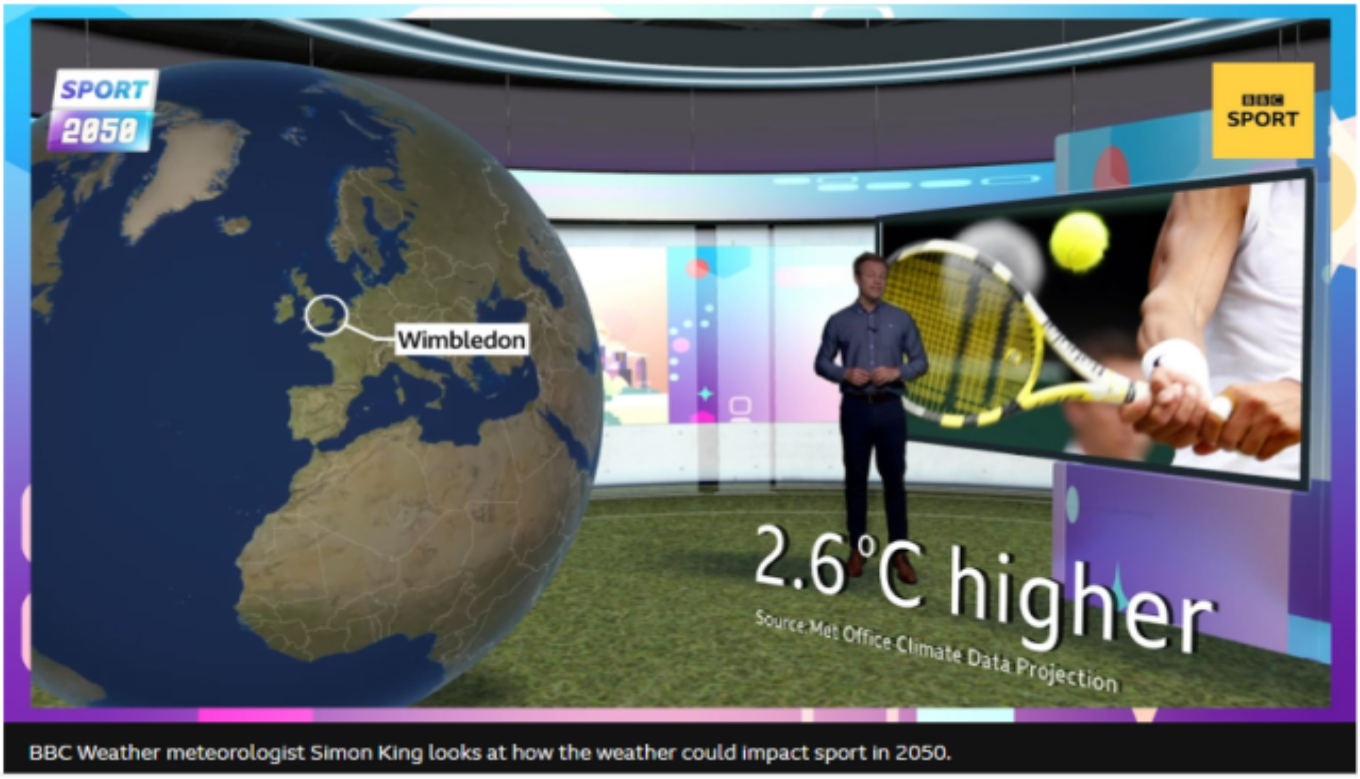
Dr Fai Fung leads the Met Office's work on climate projections. He said: "Climate projections provide a vision of a future world that provide the best indications we have about how much our climate will change. This information has been useful so far to the water industry, the agricultural sector, engineers among many other professions, but we hadn't really had an opportunity to apply our skills to factors affecting sport and leisure and we were intrigued to delve more into the project."

The BBC's request focussed on six sporting events taking place in the year 2050 and the brief was to see how climate change may have an impact on those fixtures.

The examples included a range of different sports from Alpine skiing to football, and from cricket, tennis and golf to baseball. Fai added: "Spanning five continents and approaching two kilometres of elevation, the six events provided an exciting opportunity for the team to investigate a spread of climate impacts on new disciplines. But in addition to the geography, the aspects of human endurance also gave the team opportunities to understand the climate tolerances, such as heat and humidity of half a dozen major sports."

The sports covered include:

- Melbourne, Australia, Cricket and Tennis
- London, UK, Tennis (Wimbledon)
- Cape Town, South Africa, Golf
- Val d'Isère, France, Skiing
- Guangzhou, China, Football
- Houston, United States, Major League Baseball


SPORT
2050
BBC SPORT
Wimbledon
2.6°C higher
Source: Met Office Climate Data Projection
BBC Weather meteorologist Simon King looks at how the weather could impact sport in 2050.

To watch this video please visit https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/56972367

Dr Fung added: “Climate projections are the best tool we have for understanding the future impacts of climate change, but no tool is perfect. Looking 30 years ahead we know that climate change will continue to have an impact. But exactly what will those impacts be? How many days of play are likely to be lost to heat stress at Wimbledon, and how likely is it that another drought could impact Cape Town, with implications for golf?

“The Met Office has developed increasing capabilities around climate projections and this has been of great use to industry and experts within specialist sectors, who understand the uncertainties. But a challenge that we faced with this project is how we communicate these uncertainties to the public, who are perhaps more used to consuming weather forecasts.”

Climate projections assess how meteorological and geographical factors, such as heat, rainfall and sea level rise are likely to change over time. Fai added: “To do this we have to make certain assumptions about the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and how this will affect the climate. Once we have set the parameters, we then let the supercomputer generate lots of model runs which we can then use to obtain a spread of results, showing for example the how heatwaves, droughts or snow conditions may change. This spread is then used as a basis for the final result.”

Obviously one of the challenges with climate projections is trying to establish which pathway greenhouse gas emissions will take. Climate scientists commonly use four different climate pathways known as RCPs, with each pathway describing a different outcome. Fai added: “The global set of UKCP projections use the highest emission pathway, known as RCP8.5. Ideally, we would have been able to produce projections for more of the pathways, but that requires so much computer resource to run the projections. Within 30 years most of the pathways show some overlap, and although RCP8.5 is

thankfully looking like a less likely outcome it still remains credible if the world’s progress towards net zero takes another turn.”

The UK Climate Projections (UKCP) is a climate analysis tool that forms part of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) support the UKCP.

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May 2021

Everything you need to know about WeatherReady

Description

This summer, we're all likely to be spending more time closer to home. To help you make the most of the weather, and stay safe and healthy, we've worked with the Cabinet Office and key partners to bring together the very best advice and guidance to help you stay WeatherReady this summer.

Find all our expert content below, or explore yourself using the WeatherReady page on our website.

The Met Office app will help you stay prepared for the weather

Get started by checking out 10 things you can do now to prepare for summer. This will give you a start on some small steps you can take now to help make the most of summer weather, including things to stock up on and areas to check around your home.

For many, the summer holidays will involve some longer trips in the car, so take a look at the tips for summer holiday driving, which includes advice for planning your journey and how to keep an eye on weather that could affect your planned trip. For those of you who are more accustomed to two-wheeled trips, British Cycling has also provided their tips for getting out on a bike this summer.

WeatherReady provides advice on getting active this summer

Once you're in the swing of summer, you'll most likely want to take part in some summer activities. For advice and tips on camping, beaches and keeping the kids occupied, you can explore our 'out and about' section of WeatherReady, with expert advice from the likes of the Scouts Association, the RNLI and CoolCamping.com.

Now you've got some tips on making the most of summer weather, here is some advice on how to stay safe in differing conditions.

It's important to take care of you and your family's sun health. While many welcome warm weather, it can bring health risks. Take some time to read through Public Health England's tips for keeping cool in hot weather. Specific summer health advice is also available to help manage hayfever symptoms and protect yourself from UV, including how to avoid sunburn.

Garden hosepipes can represent a risk that you may not have considered. Check out the handy checklist from WaterSafe, on how to make sure a hosepipe doesn't become a summer hazard.

Get advice on preparing for storms with WeatherReady

And while lots of people hope warm weather is the norm this summer, it’s important to know what to do in the event of persistent heavy rain, just in case. For that, check out the practical advice for your area on protecting your property from flooding.

For more information on WeatherReady visit the About WeatherReady page.

Are you WeatherReady?

Date Created
May 2021